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MEMORANDUM

TO: Dave Buck, P.E.
Public Works Director

FROM: Ben Anderson, Engineering Assistant 

DATE: April 17, 2012

SUBJECT: 2012 CDBG SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROJECT
PHONE LOG

Having not worked with or even knowing of Artistic Construction, and because they our apparent low bidder, I felt that it was important to contact there references and find out what kind of work they have been doing and the quality of their work.

Below is a summary of my discussions:

Art RaFati, owner of Artistic Construction:

- Called Mr. RaFati to discuss his bid and to find out more information about his company. Told him we had some concerns about his bid and wanted some more references, specifically with regard to any concrete curb work he had done.
- He provided an inspectors name and number from the City of Indianapolis where they had done approximately 2,200 LF of curb.
- One of the biggest differences between his quote and the others received were found in the Contractors Bid for Public Work Form 96. This form asked the contractor to answers some question related to this job and how they are going to perform the work and with what equipment or subcontractors.
 - Mr. RaFati stated that he would not be using any subcontractors on his form, but when asked how he was going to take down the big trees as part of this project, he stated that he had a subcontractor who had called him back right before he turned in the bids and was not able to get them added.

- When asked who it was, he was unable to recall their name. He stated that he would send me the information when he got back to the office.
- I then called him back the next day asking again who the subcontractor was and he still didn't have the information with him, but promised me he would get it to me that night when he got back.
- When asked about the Contractors Bid for Public Work Form 96, Question 3, "Have you ever failed to complete any work awarded to you?", his response was no. However, we found out that they had in fact not completed awarded work in the City of Lafayette due to Lafayette firing Artistic Construction for issues with their performance, project management and record keeping.

Mike Perry, Project Manager with TECTON Construction:

- Mr. Perry worked with Artistic on a fire station in Rossville, Indiana. He stated that Artistic was a small outfit and was able to complete their job. The quality of their work was acceptable, but they had a hard time with the paper work and bonding needs for the project. I explained the scope of the work involved in our project and asked him if they could handle the job, in his opinion. Mr. Perry stated he would be very leery to award them a job that big, and that they would require a lot of supervision.

Frank Glidden, Inspector for the City of Indianapolis:

- Mr. Glidden stated he has inspected Artistic's work on numerous sidewalk projects for the City of Indianapolis. He stated that their quality is okay and that they will be able to pass, but will require a watchful eye. He stated Artistic has a very hard time with paperwork and if not continually reminded to stay on schedule, will fall behind really quickly. Most of the work was sidewalks and handicap ramps, and they had not done much curb work. When asked if he could do the scope of work for the City of West Lafayette, he stated that Artistic could do the work, but would need help on keeping up with the schedule and getting paperwork in on time.

Mike, Inspector at work done at the IUPUI Campus:

- Mike stated that Artistic completed the work 3 or so years ago, and had a couple of quality issues that were corrected during the construction. It was difficult to work with them on the paperwork, and has not had any projects dealing with them since. When asked if he would feel comfortable about the scope of work involved in our project, he stated that he would have some concerns with meeting all the paperwork demands of the CDBG, and with them being able to have enough workers to meet the schedule and traffic demands.

Jim, Inspector for the City of Indianapolis:

- Jim stated that Artistic performed a curb and sidewalk project for him. Jim stated that overall they performed the work and met the quality requirements, but felt they had some issues that may be a result of just being a small company. Some examples are; lack of man power, needing a lot of supervision, and from a city's point of view, not responsive with the paperwork. When asked if he thought Artistic could handle the scope or our project, he declined to provide a response.